

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/271,614

Examiner

Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.

Applicant(s)

CHEYER ET AL.

Art Unit

2127

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed 9/16/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-47 and 49-56 now renumbered 1-55.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because of Draftperson's Review. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-47 and 49-56 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: All of the claims are allowable for at least the following reasons: All of the claims detail the inter-agent language including: a layer of conversational protocol defined by event types and parameter lists associated with one or more of the events, wherein the parameters lists further refine the one or more events. The cited prior art of record do not teach the inter-agent language having the cited layer as disclosed. Prior Art article entitled, "Building Distributed Software Systems with the Open Agent Architecture", published by some of the inventors teaches the cited layers however, the reference has been disqualified by the 1.132 Affidavit filed on 9/16/04. In addition, prior art article "Software Agent Technologies" published by Nwana et al. teach an agent communication language (KQML) that comprises three layers: a content layer, a message layer, and a

Art Unit: 2127

communication layer. The content layer specifies the actual content of the message for which KQML standard itself has nothing to say about its structure (pg. 4). The message layer provides the performative that specifies the protocol for delivering the message that subsumes the content, i.e. the rules that agents must use when initiating and maintaining an exchange (pg. 5). The communication layer encodes low level communication parameters, such as the identities of the sender and the recipient, and unique identifiers for the particular speech act (pg. 5). The disclosed agent communication language does not read upon the cited agent language because the layer does not define an event type as well as the parameter lists that further refines the event. Nwana's language at best has separate layers for the event and the parameters associated with the event. By Applicant providing these parameters in the same layer as the event such that they further refine the event, a standard set of events are dynamically extensible based upon the parameter list which is not possible with the teachings of Nwana. Therefore, the claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

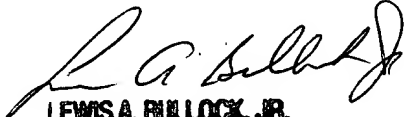
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2127

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 24, 2004



LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER